Look right, look left, then look right!
Okay!
What do you do when crossing the street?
Don't go with them!
That's right!
If a stranger talks to you...?
Right! Don't eat it!
BUT!
Don't pick it up, just tell Daddy when you get home...
Don't eat it!
If you see food on the ground ...?
All right...
WHEE WHEE WHEE
...
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM

Chapter 25 | Warm Croquettes Under a Starry Sky

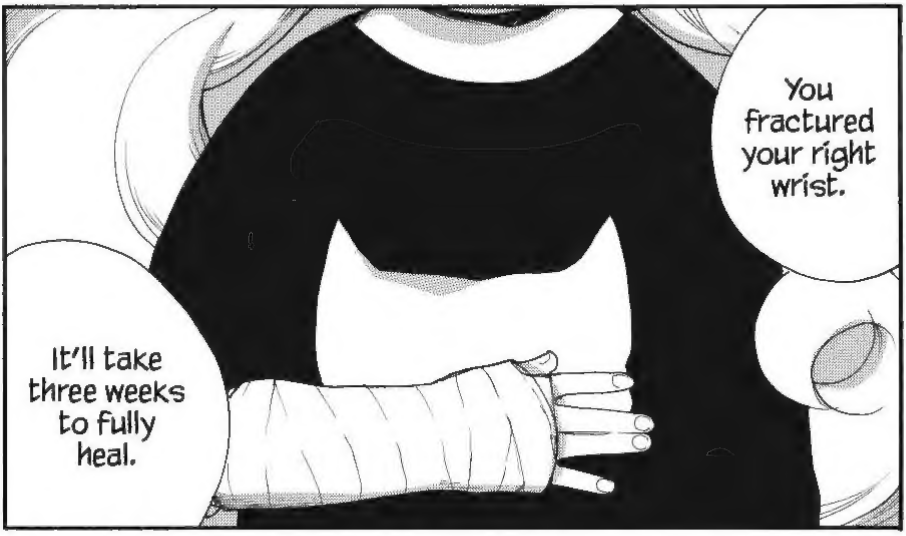
I'll be back!
Take care!
DROP
Okay.
Looks like she's left.
It's time for...
Tsumugi-chan's first errand!

HURRY
HURRY
HURRY
WORRY WORRY
Staying home
It's better that way!
HMM...
No problems so far!
Excuse me!
I'm on an errand!
Hmm.
So far, so good.
Maybe we're being overprotective.

Oh, you're on your own? What a big girl you are!
HEE HEE!
Give me... three! ...Croquettes!
RUSTLE
Okay, go ahead.
Okay!
Microwave them before you eat.
...but if you're having them for dinner, they'll probably get cold.
They're best fresh from the fryer...
...I want to eat one now.
GURGLE
PUFF
YAY!
Cro-quettes!
Cro-quettes!

Daddy!
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
FIDGET
FIDGET
Tsumugi!
Wel-
come—
TRIP

SQUISH
CRACK
She twisted it!
Hngh...
Tsumugi-
Waaahhh!
Are you okay?
Tsu-mugi!
WAAAH-HH!


You fractured your right wrist.
It'll take three weeks to fully heal.

Oh, but they said if you don't move around too much, you can go to school.
...

Okay, open wide!

You dropped the croquettes, so we'll have them another time!
My cro-quette ...
CLATTER CLATTER

Eat some yummy food and get better quick, okay?
...Yeah.

I can do it myself!
HMPH!

...
CHEW CHEW
もぐ
もぐ
POKE
つん
I'm a big girl.
I'll help you finish—
Ergh!
I can do it!
Here, give it to me.
Aah...
You're getting rice all over you
The stress of not being able to do things is getting to her.
SCOWL
SCOWL

I'm sorry, Tsumugi.
Why are you apologizing?
Why?
TWITCH
...I thought it might be better for grown-ups to help you, so you could do it yourself.
But I realize I pushed you too hard.
You're a very good girl...
...so instead of telling you not to do something...
Let's just take our time and not push ourselves, 'kay?

TWEEDLE LEE DAH
...
Sorry the errand didn't go well. Is Tsumugi-chan okay? Please take it easy until she's better. I don't mean to meddle, but I came up with something she could eat with one hand. If there's anything else you need, please tell me.
----------Recipe----------
お, ODH!
That's great.
I wonder if we can make croquettes...?
...that's right, croquettes.
You can eat them with one hand, too.
SQUISH
Anything else...

I'm sorry I'm late.
Was everything okay?
Yes, she was very quiet today, and a very good girl.
She was very good at changing herself and eating her lunch with one hand.
I see... I'm glad.
Tsumugi, she said you're a good girl!
I'm not a good girl!
All I did was read a picture book by myself...
...'cause you said not to play outside.

Let's both try hard until you get better!
...
...Tsumugi, I know it's rough.
I sorry
Nothing.
...What is it, Tsumugi?

I don't wanna!
I don't wanna try hard!
Huh?
I don't want to try hard anymore.

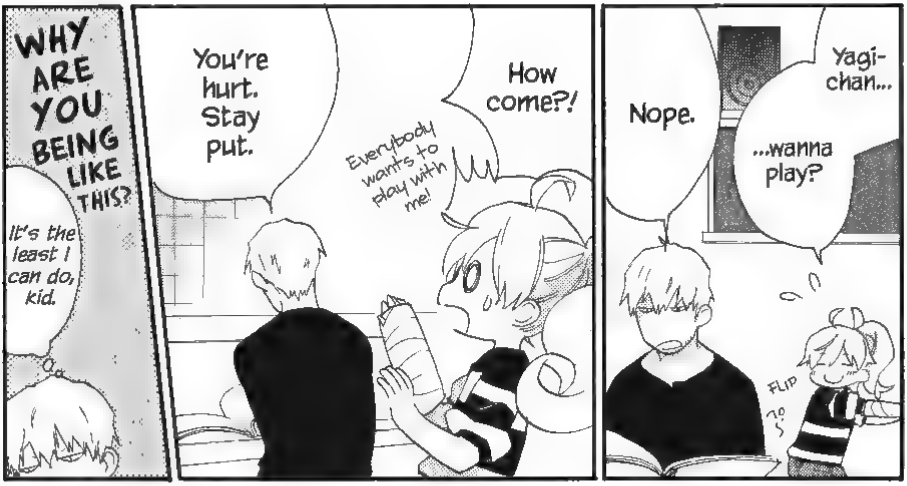
I didn't like it when I tried hard and you didn't tell me I did a good job!

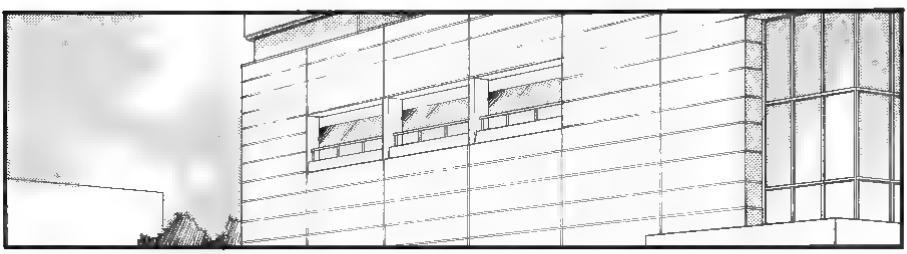
I'm not gonna do it anymore!
Wha–
You like me more when I'm a good girl who tries hard, right?
Forget it!
You got hurt, so I forgot to tell you, but you did a great job!
Huh? Are you talking about when you went on your errand?

Tsu-mugi!
That's not true!
Is too!
But you like me better when I'm good, right?
I told you, it's okay to be a bit of a naughty girl, right?

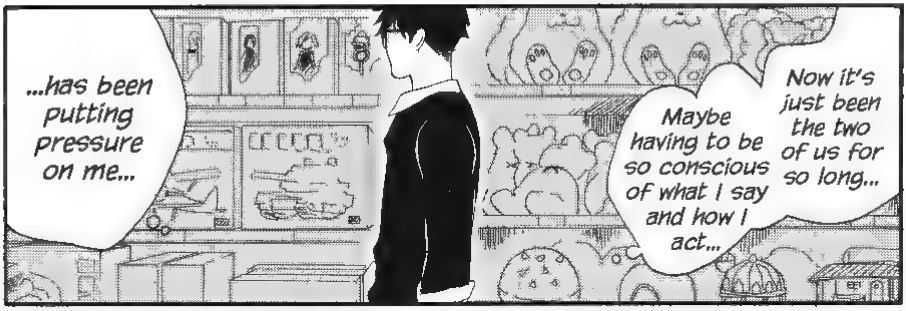
I'm gonna be a demon!
I'm done trying hard and being good!

T-Tsu...
Tsumugi-san...?
...Sorry.
She insisted on coming to see you, Yagi.
Well, I understand what's going on.
Cool off for a bit.
Yagi-chan!
I'm really sorry.
Thanks.
SQUEEZE
Just think of this as a chance to blow off some steam...
...and enjoy some time by yourself.
...


WHY ARE YOU BEING LIKE THIS?
It's the least I can do, kid.
You're hurt. Stay put.
How come?!
Everybody wants to play with me!
Nope.
Yagi-chan...
...wanna play?
FLIP



Before I got married and Tsumugi was born...
What did I used to do?
It's not enough time to do any work.
Time by myself, huh? I don't know...


...has been putting pressure on me...
Maybe having to be so conscious of what I say and how I act...
Now it's just been the two of us for so long...

I used to make these in high school, didn't I?
Oh.

Huh?

Looking back, I guess it was my hobby.
Ooh!

Maybe I'll buy one. It's been forever.

Is that...?
!
That's sensei!
Sign: MagiGirl
...
Sensei, are you buying that?
I-It's for your daughter, right?
Uwah!
What are you guys doing here?
Shopping.
I was going to look at clothes.
Window shopping.
That's right!
My daughter!
I thought my daughter might like this!
They realized how out of place I am...?
My niece loves that show too.
Ooh~

So she's not here, but...
Ooh...
Your daughter...
She's at a friend's right now.

...I like looking at things my daughter likes.
I guess...

Daddy, look!

I've got to get dinner ready.
TUNK
フト
You're not going to buy it?
Nah!
Next time I'll come here with my daughter!

ガ
Hello!
Open today at 2:00
RATTLE
ラッ
I don't wanna go home!
No!
Go home.
Ha ha
I'm not going home!
Oh?
Your dad came back fast.
FLINCH
ビク
Fine.
GLANCE
GLANCE
Sure, I guess.
Oh.
Huh?
WHISPER
ニヤ

SCRAPE
しゃり
しゃり
SCRAPE
SHMP
ぱっ
コロン
ROLL
PLAP
ぺた
Huh, I wonder.
...Hey, what's he doing?
...
I'm not being mean.
Don't be mean!
JEEZ!

Right? Normally butchers and stuff make them, and they're really difficult, right?
You can make croquettes?!
We're having croquettes for dinner.
'Kay.
It's a secret.
!
But at this rate, croquettes are always going to remind you...
...of the sad time when you got hurt, right?
So your daddy's doing his best to make yummy, fresh croquettes...
...so that they'll remind you of how much he cares about you instead.

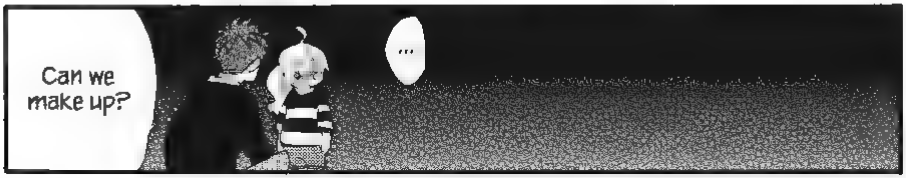
I want to make some really good ones!
So this time
She never got to eat croquettes...
...I'm sure that's what he wanted to say.
Thank you, Kotori-san...!!
Crush boiled potatoes with a masher...
Recipe
Saute minced onion and ground meat...
Want me to help?
MUTTER
Mix the onion and ground meat with the potatoes.
MUTTER
Hey...
!

Tsumugi, it's okay.
Leave it to Daddy.
Once you're all better, I'll have you help again.
But I can...
...do anything...
Are you dis-appointed...?

...I'm sorry. I was just worried about you, and I didn't mean...
You're apologizing again.
But I realize I pushed you too hard.
Let's just take our time, and not push ourselves, kay?
Sorr—
Oh.

I've been disappointed in myself a lot of times, though.
...Really?
Yeah.
Like right now...
Hey, listen...
I've never been disappointed in you, not even once.

Tsumugi, you're my kid, and the most important thing in the world to me.
I'm never gonna be disappointed in you.


...
Can we make up?

...Okay!
Come here!

The demon's gone now.
Kabocha squash and hard-boiled egg filling!
I'm gonna make a filling, too— something offbeat.
Sorry about all this.
BLUSH BLUSH
...
What, are you just gonna stand there?
GULP

WE'LL HELP TOO!
CLATTER
がらっ

UP-STAIRS?
Hey, let's eat up-stairs.
Yay!
OOH!
They're all golden and crispy!
Wow!
Hmh
That's aurora sauce.
Hmh
It's nice and cool!
LET'S EAT!
I get to eat with my hands...
It's hot, so be careful.
Croquettes taste best when you eat them outside!
I get to eat outside!

もぐもぐ
NOM NOM
CRUNCH
HFF
ふっ
ふっ
HFF
YUM MY!
はぐっ
WOW!
はぐ
NOM

That was Yagi's... Well, she's happy, so I guess it's fine.
That does sound good!
Listen! Kabocha squash and boiled egg croquettes are so good!

To be continued...